

## Whole Armor of God: Breast plate of righteousness

Ephesians 6:14 Stand therefore ... having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

**Purpose of Breastplate:** Protection of vital organs

The Iron or bronze scaled armor was built in four sections to cover each shoulder and side of the chest. The plates were sewn to a stiff leather vest, which was put on like a jacket before the front plates were tied with leather straps.



God's example in taking vengeance on His enemies:

Isaiah 59:17 For He put on righteousness as a breastplate, And a helmet of salvation on His head; He put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloak.

Simple definition of righteousness:

- To be made right (Position)
- To show to be right (Conduct)

### I. Positional righteousness: Who we are in Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:16–21 Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know *Him thus* no longer. <sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. <sup>18</sup> Now all things *are* of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, <sup>19</sup> that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For He made Him who knew no sin to *be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Romans 5:19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.

#### Not based on our past:

Romans 3:10 As it is written: "*There is none righteous, no, not one;*

Romans 3:21–26 But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, <sup>22</sup> even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup> whom God set forth *as* a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, <sup>26</sup> to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.



### II. Walking Righteous: Because He has given us His righteousness it empowers us to pursue and walk it out in our lives

Putting on God's righteousness believers are committed to being imitators of him and acting righteously in all their dealings.

Ephesians 5:9 (for the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness, righteousness, and truth),

To put on the breastplate can be understood as choosing not to harbor and nurture known sin. It is striving to be like Christ and live according to his ways of righteousness.

#### Who we are in Christ:

1 Corinthians 1:30–31 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—<sup>31</sup> that, as it is written, "*He who glories, let him glory in the LORD.*"

#### How to put on the breastplate of righteousness:

**Believe it:** Romans 10:10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

**Receive and acknowledge it:** Philippians 3:9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which *is* from the law, but that which *is* through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;

#### Act like you have it:

##### Don't accept your own standards, but God's:

Titus 2:11–12 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, <sup>12</sup> teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age.

**Desire it:** Matthew 5:6 Blessed *are* those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.

**Seek it daily:** Matthew 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

**Put it on daily:** Ephesians 4:24 You put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

**Because He has given me His righteousness I can work it in my life. It is a protection**

#### Having received and walking in His righteousness produces a breastplate of righteousness:

As the *breast-plate* defends the heart and lungs, and all those vital functionaries that are contained in what is called the *region of the thorax*; so this righteousness, this life of God in the soul of man, defends everything on which the man's spiritual existence depends. While he possesses this principle, and acts from it, his spiritual and eternal life is secure.

To put on the breastplate of righteousness can be understood as choosing not to harbor and nurture known sin. It is striving to be like Christ and live according to his ways of righteousness.